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From: Jerry L. Ashley  
101 Cindy Lane  
Greenwood, SC 29646  
(Location-- Highland Forest Sub-Division Hwy 25 South in Greenwood)

To: Executive Director  
The Public Service Commission  
P.O. Drawer 11649  
Columbia, SC 29211  
1-803-896-5100

Date: 8-1-13

Subject: United Utility Companies, Inc - Request for a rate increase for  
sewer service—Residential

Reference: Docket No. 2013-199-WS (copy attached)

RECEIVED

AUG 05 2013

PSC SC  
CLERK'S OFFICE

Please do not approve this rate increase.

Please help the residents of Highland Forest Sub-Division in Greenwood, SC to stop this rate increase. United Utility is already charging too much for sewer service and your attention to this problem is needed. United Utility should be trying to find ways to reduce the cost to customers.

The current rate charged by United Utility for Sewer Service is \$53.50 per month. This current rate paid to United Utility is much higher (About \$28 more a month) than the rate paid by other Greenwood residents to the local sewer service provider.

The proposed requested new rate is \$83.39.

The rate increase requested is an extra \$29.89 per month.

This is a requested rate increase of 55.87%.

This amount of rate increase is not fair to the customers.

The State should conduct an audit of United Utility Companies, Inc.  
The State should check out the sewer system in Greenwood SC.  
The current rate charged for sewer service is 1.37 times higher than my current water bill. Could the State consider having a local sewer provider taking over this service for the Greenwood SC residents?  
Or could the State provide this sewer service for us? Something need to be done to stop this high cost sewer service to SC residents.  
This proposed rate is 2.14 times my water bill. This is not fair.

Thanks for your concern about this problem,



Dear United Utility Companies, Inc. Customer,

We want to make you aware of a rate request that we filed with the South Carolina Public Service Commission (PSC) and provide some background regarding our request. As a public utility, we have an obligation to continue to deliver clean, reliable water and wastewater service at the lowest reasonable cost. We are asking the PSC to allow us to cover our current annual operating costs as well as earn a reasonable return on capital investment.

Your existing rates are based on 2006 annual operating costs and on capital expenditures that have been made since January 2007. Your current rates do not fund any capital investments made since that time. The purpose in making those investments is to improve the quality and reliability of your water and wastewater service, to provide safe and secure facilities, and to be compliant with all current rules and regulations. The following is a list of some significant expenditures undertaken since our last rate increase that improve the delivery of water and wastewater services to you:

- Replaced a failing pressurized water storage tank at Kingswood
- Rebuilt the iron removal filter at Trollingwood water plant
- Replaced several tanks that are part of the wastewater treatment process
- Replaced chemical buildings to provide safe and secure storage facilities for chemicals used in the treatment process

In total, United Utility Companies, Inc. (UUC) has spent approximately \$178,000 in investments to improve facilities across the UUC service areas to insure that we continue to deliver the highest quality product and service to you.

We understand that there is never a good time for a rate increase. The rates we requested of the PSC are based on the actual costs of providing water and wastewater service. Together we share the goal of a safe, dependable supply of safe drinking water at the lowest possible price, consistent with prudent business practices.

Importantly, under the proposed new rates, if approved, a **full service water customer would receive a gallon of safe, clean water delivered to their faucet for around one penny** and the average monthly water residential bill would equal around \$77. In addition, the total cost for disposal and treatment of your wastewater would equal about \$83 for a typical residential wastewater customer, about \$62 for a mobile home customer, and about \$43 for a customer whose wastewater is collected by us but treated by another utility.

We welcome any feedback from our customers, whether it is about our proposed rates or about our services. You can contact us at (800) 272-1919.

Best regards,  
Patrick Flynn,  
Regional Director

**THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION OF SOUTH CAROLINA  
CLERK'S OFFICE  
DOCKET NO. 2013-199-WS**

**REVISED NOTICE OF FILING AND HEARING**

United Utility Companies, Inc. ("United" or "Company") has filed an Application with the Public Service Commission of South Carolina (the "Commission") for an adjustment of its rates and charges and modifications to certain terms and conditions for the provision of water and sewer service. The Application was filed pursuant to Title 58 of the South Carolina Code and S.C. Code Ann. § 58-5-240 and 10 S. C. Code Ann. Regs. 103-712.4 and 103-512.4. As justification for its proposed rate increase, United states that in order that it may provide reasonable and adequate service to its customers, cover its expenses, be permitted an opportunity to earn a reasonable return on its investment, and attract capital for future improvements, the proposed rate increase is necessary. The Applicant also requests the rate increase to comply with the standards and regulations set by the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control and other environmental authorities. The Company proposes new rates in its Application, including, but not limited to the following: new charges to recover its costs of disconnecting its water and sewer customers from its facilities in certain circumstances; to recover its costs of repair of its water and sewer facilities which have been damaged by tampering; to recover its costs of pumping, repairing, and/or replacing its customer's interceptor tanks and for the installation of certain water meters; to increase its approved customer account charge to its new water and sewer customers; and to increase its approved notification fee charged in connection with a notice prior to disconnection of sewer services. The Company's proposed water and sewer tariffs also include late payment charges for any balance unpaid within twenty-five days (25) of the billing date to be assessed at one and one-half percent (1-1/2%) for each month, or any part of a month, that said payment is late.

**THE PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE RATES AND CHARGES ARE SET FORTH BELOW**

(The complete rate schedule is available from the Company at the address below and on the Commission's website at [www.psc.sc.gov](http://www.psc.sc.gov))

**WATER**

**Monthly Charges**

**Current**

**Proposed**

Residential (per single family house, condominium;  
mobile home, apartment unit)

Residential

Basic Facilities Charge

\$15.18 per unit

\$21.00 per unit

Commodity Charge

\$7.79 per 1,000  
gallons or 134 cft.

\$10.77 per 1,000  
gallons or 134 cft.

Commercial

Basic Facilities Charge

\$15.18 per SFE

\$21.00 Per SFE

Per single family equivalent (SFE)

Commodity Charge:

\$7.79 per 1,000  
gallons or 134 cft.

\$10.77 per 1,000  
gallons or 134 cft.

**Non-Recurring Charges**

Water Meter – 5/8 inches x ¾ meter	N/A	\$100.00
Customer Account Charge (new customers only)	\$25.00	\$ 30.00
Reconnection Charges	\$35.00	N/A
Disconnection Charges	N/A	\$ 40.00
Tampering Charge	N/A	\$250.00

**SEWER**

<b>Monthly Charges</b>	<b>Current</b>	<b>Proposed</b>
Residential - monthly charge Per single-family house, condominium, villa, or apartment unit	\$53.50 per unit	\$83.39 per unit
Mobile Homes – monthly charge	\$39.46 per unit	\$61.51 per unit
Commercial – monthly charge	\$53.50 per SFE	\$83.39 per SFE

**Charge for Sewer Collection Only**

Residential - monthly charge per single-family house, condominium, mobile home or apartment unit	\$27.35 per unit	\$42.63 per unit
Commercial Monthly Charge	\$27.35 Per SFE	\$42.63 Per SFE
Pumping Charge	N/A	\$150.00 minimum

**Non Recurring Charges**

Notification Fee	\$6.00	\$15.00
Customer Account Charge	\$25.00	\$30.00
Reconnection Charges	\$250.00	N/A
Disconnection Charges**	N/A	\$500.00
**Where an elder valve has been previously installed, a disconnection fee of \$40.00 shall be charged		
Tampering Charge	N/A	\$250.00

A copy of the Company's Application can be obtained from the Commission at the following address:  
Public Service Commission of South Carolina, Clerk's Office, P. O. Drawer 11649, Columbia, South  
Carolina 29211. Additionally, UUC's Application is available on the Commission's website  
at [www.psc.sc.gov](http://www.psc.sc.gov).

In order for testimony and evidence to be received from all interested parties, a public hearing will be  
held in the Commission's Hearing Room, Synergy Business Park, 101 Executive Center Dr., Columbia,  
South Carolina on **Tuesday, October 22, 2013 at 10:00 a.m.**

Any person who wishes to participate in this matter, as a party of record with the right of cross-examination should file a Petition to Intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, on or before **August 19, 2013**, and indicate the amount of time required for his or her presentation. Please include an email address for receipt of future Commission correspondence in the Petition to Intervene. *Please refer to **Docket No. 2013-199-WS**.*

Any person who wishes to testify and present evidence at the hearing should notify the Clerk's Office, in writing, at the address below, the Office of Regulatory Staff, 1401 Main Street, Suite 900, Columbia, South Carolina 29201, and Charles L. A. Terreni, Esquire, Terreni Law Firm, LLC and Scott Elliott, Esquire, Elliott & Elliott, P.A., 1508 Lady Street, Columbia, South Carolina, 29201 on or before **August 19, 2013**, and indicate the amount of time required for the presentation. *Please refer to **Docket No. 2013-199-WS**.*

**Any person who wishes to request a hearing in his or her county of residence should notify on or before August 29, 2013**, in writing, the Clerk's Office at the address below, the Office of Regulatory Staff, 1401 Main Street, Suite 900, Columbia, South Carolina 29201, and Charles L. A. Terreni, Esquire and Scott Elliott, Esquire, 1508 Lady Street, Columbia, South Carolina 29201. *Please refer to **Docket No. 2013-199-WS**.*

Any person who wishes to be notified of any change in the hearing date, but does not wish to present testimony or be a party of record, may do so by notifying the Clerk's Office in writing at the address below on or before **August 19, 2013**. *Please refer to **Docket No. 2013-199-WS**.*

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: Any person who wishes to have his or her comments considered as part of the official record of this proceeding **MUST** present such comments, in person, to the Commission during the hearing.

Persons seeking information about the Commission's Procedures should contact the Commission in Columbia at 803-896-5100.

Public Service Commission of South Carolina  
Attn: Clerk's Office  
Post Office Drawer 11649  
Columbia, SC 29211